

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LR 14

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, of course, I don't support the motion to indefinitely postpone, but I...I would recognize that Senator Schimek is bringing this motion up for discussion purposes. The problem that we have here is whether we should have, in the constitution, that the Governor pick a Lieutenant Governor candidate from the same party, and the original constitutional amendment said they shall choose a Lieutenant Governor of the same party. And having said that and having been amended by Senator Chambers, the political parties have become concerned. They would not like to support something where a Governor candidate could choose someone not from their own party. It would be my intention, and I think at this time I would be supportive of that, I say I think because I want to keep an open mind, that should LR 14CA be passed this session that we will need enabling legislation in the statutes next year, and then the issue could be decided by this legislative body as to whether we should require that the Governor candidate choose a Lieutenant Governor candidate from their same party or not. I believe at this time I would support that the Governor candidate support someone from their same party, but that is an issue to decide next year should LR 14CA become law. I cannot, in my own mind, imagine a Democratic or a Republican Governor candidate choosing someone from the other party or an Independent. Maybe an Independent would work. There's certainly room for that. I just don't know how it's going to work. But I would ask you not to vote against a good piece of legislation just because of this concern, and I'm not saying it isn't a concern that we shouldn't be concerned about. I just think we need to keep the horse ahead of the cart and let's pass the horse this year and we'll address the cart next year. And I think we can all pull in the same direction and so, from that standpoint, I do oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone and would hope that you would advance LR 14CA today because the system we have in place today, where the Lieutenant Governor candidate and the Governor candidate are elected independently on the primary ballot, just doesn't work well. It doesn't harmonize well. And hopefully, when this is all said and done and it gets on the ballot, both of the major political parties in this state will be supportive of 14CA, and that would be my goal.